REPORTS AS TO THE KING'S-CROSS TERMINUS.

SOME exaggerated rumours as to a probable failure of part of the works at the King's-cross Station of the Great Northern Railway, have been extensively circulated, and a malicious statement, which looked like truth, was sent us for publication. Inquiry on the spot, however, leads us to believe that what is being done there is simply by way of precaution. We found that the vibration of fixing the carpentry on the ribs required the precaution of temporary shores whilst such work was in execution, and these have been fixed, which greatly lessens the tremor upon the works. Without them there was a tendency to move the green brickwork outwards. To make the piers more secure they are adding brickwork in cement, and so obtaining immediate rigidity. The piers were certainly small, considering their office, and the time of year.

ROME.—ARTISTIC INTELLIGENCE.

Examination of the Bed of the Tiber.—There can be no doubt, that the bottom of the Tiber conceals great archæological treasures, which the statue of the adoring lad of the Berlin museum, dragged thither, amply proves. Hence, therefore, the exploring of the Tiber has been always matter of considerable speculation, to be accomplished even by dragging-machines, which method, however, could not have been but injurious to delicate art-works. Others projected digging for the Roman river a temporary new bed, and to lay thus the old one dry for research and excavation. The recent discovery of the diving-bell, by which a person may remain for hours at the bottom of water, has again resuscitated this idea. An offer, not merely speculative and monetary, has been made to the Roman Government, according to which the half of the antiquities found should belong to the enterpriser, and the other to the public collections of Rome. The secretary of state, however, adds another stipulation, by which the existing privilege of prohibiting the exportation of art-works of great value is to be revived.

Latest Excavations.—The secretary of state, M. Jacobini, assisted by the architect Canina, is engaged in ordering large excavations in and near Rome. Besides the large works on the Via Appia, where many interesting researches are in progress, the Forum Romanum also is matter of thorough examination. The pavement of the Basilica Julia has been so far uncovered, that the plan of this edifice lies now clear before the eyes of the modern beholder. Its longitudinal front was turned towards the Forum, and consisted of five naves, of which, however, only the foundations of the pillars have remained intact. The next research will be proceeded with in the direction of the three columns (now called the temple of Castor), which lie very close to the walls of the Basilica Julia.—As the best preserved front of the Coliseum is only divided by one street from the adjacent vineyards, which rise there towards the Viminal hills, but which obstruct any view of the huge edifice, it is intended to level these declivities, and to gain thus an open space, which would also afford a view of the Termes of Titus, and the other buildings connected therewith. Some of the houses which have hitherto covered the apsis of the basilica of Constantine are to be demolished, by which alone the plan and intention of this gorgeous building will become conspicuous. It is also spoken of that Rome shall once more obtain a public park, as some vineyards at the foot of the Palatine, where formerly some unsuccessful excavations had been carried on by the Emperor of Russia, have been appropriated for that use. Since the shadowy *allées* on the Forum have disappeared, Rome has lost one of its principal natural ornaments.

Archæological Society of Rome.—On the 13th of December, this society celebrated its usual commemoration of Winckelmann. The sculptor, E. Wolff, of Berlin, who had been engaged for some time past in the modelling of a bust of the great German art-philosopher, had of late obtained from M. Visconti the original portrait of Winckelmann, drawn by Angelica Kaufmann, after life, according to which M. Wolff has improved his work. A copy of the bust thus perfected was presented to the society on this occasion. Amongst the works exhibited were those of the architect, M. Canina, on the parts of Etruria belonging to the Papal dominions, printed by order of Government, and now concluded by the second volume. Of the same author, the second part of the "Ancient Buildings of Rome," was lying on the table, both of costly execution. The first six sheets of an accurate survey of the Via Appia were further shown: it extends from Rome to Aricia, and has been made at the expense of the society by the architect and engraver, M. Rosa. Vice-President Dr. Kestner opened the meeting with a commemoration of the works and exertions of Winckelmann, after which Dr. Brown spoke on polychrome architecture with reference to the work of Hittorff. The Prussian Ambassador, M. Usedom, regaled the members of the society and a number of guests and foreign *savans* and artists with a tasteful dinner, at which toasts for the mutual co-operation of Italian and German art were brought out.

NOTES IN THE PROVINCES.

Bishop Stortford. — All Saints Church, Hockerill, was consecrated on Wednesday in week before last. It is in the early English style. The ground plan comprises a nave 61 ft. long by 26 ft. wide, of four bays, with a south aisle 17 ft. wide; a south porch; a chancel 29 ft. by 20 ft., with a vestry on the north side. The pillars of the nave are clustered with moulded bases, caps, and arches, and the roofs are all of open timber. The chancel is fitted with four longitudinal benches. The sittings in the nave and aisle are all open, of stained deal. The church is paved with Minton's tiles. The east window is filled with stained glass, by O'Connor, and was presented to the Rev. J. Menet, the first incumbent of the church, by the congregation of St. James Birch, in the parish of Manchester, on the occasion of his leaving the curacy. The twelve apostles are represented in the three lights, and our Saviour is seated in glory, as the king of saints, in the head of the centre light. The height of the church to the ridge of the roof is 50 ft., and to the top of the bell turret, 66 ft. The materials of which the structure is built are Caen stone dressings and Kentish rag-stone walls, random ranged. The church is heated with hot water by Mr. Cook, of London. Some slight decoration to the interior face of the walls is contemplated, when it is sufficiently hardened. The edifice is constructed to accommodate 500 persons, and of this number of seats, 388 are free and unappropriated. The total cost of the building, including fittings, has been about 2,500*l.* The architect is Mr. G. E. Pritchett, of Bishop Stortford; and the builder, Mr. J. L. Glasscock, of same place.

Sherborne.—The parish church, which has for a length of time been undergoing necessary repairs, is now, it is said, about to receive a full and complete restoration. A contract has been entered into for the completion of all the unfinished portion of the church down to the choir; and the commencement of the work will take place in a short time. The completed repairs and restorations are contracted for 2,000*l.*

Worcester.—It is intended, if the decorations and erection of the orchestra can be completed by that day, to open the new Music Hall in the Corn-market on the 29th of this month, by the performance of Haydn's "Seasons." The panels of the dome are coloured pink, and the mouldings fawn and white. The walls are painted green, the pilasters stone colour, the wainscot a dark red granite, and the plinth deeper in tone. The scroll work, which supplies the place of a cornice, is picked out in white upon a pink ground. The orchestra, which occupies a good deal of space at the upper end of the room, will be semi-circular, and contain five or six tiers of seats, capable of seating 150 vocalists and 35 instrumental performers. The organ is not yet built. At the other end—over the entrance screen—dark crimson draperies are suspended, capable of being drawn to the ceiling or let down completely over the recess, and it is believed that this will go far to remedy any acoustic defect observable in the room. The centre pane of glass in the dome has been raised so as to admit of the escape of heated air at the apex of the building through small louvre boards.

Torquay.—The ground for a new cemetery is nearly inclosed, the lodge is commenced, and the formation of the walk and laying out of the grounds are progressing.——The Taunton Local Board of Health have received a communication from the General Board, stating that local boards have no power to interfere in the formation of public cemeteries by companies.

Cardiff.—It is contemplated to erect a church at Canton, a very populous and improving suburb of Cardiff, towards which Mr. J. Homfray, has offered a site. As a clergyman has been appointed, and service is now held in a room hired for the purpose, it may be supposed that it will not be long before it is carried into effect.

Llandaff.—The second contract for the restoration of Llandaff Cathedral has just been settled, and given, without competition, to Messrs. James and Price, of Cardiff, who were the contractors for the portion already restored, namely, the presbytery. The architect is Mr. John Prichard. The nave is the part now to be restored: it is to have an open timber roof of English oak (to correspond with that already completed), covered with 8-lb. cast lead. The amount of contract is 2,300*l.* This is the fifth contract Messrs. James and Price have had without competition in a twelvemonth, which, says our informant, seems complimentary in these days.

Willenhall.—The inhabitants of this town are laudably exerting themselves to obtain a supply of water for the use of its inhabitants. An inexhaustible supply, it is stated, has been found a short distance from the town; and, by the liberality of Mr. Gittins, of Bilston, it is offered for the use of this town. At a meeting of inhabitants on 29th ult., it was resolved that a company should be formed. The capital is nearly subscribed for.

Bradford.—Several builders of this town, says the local *Observer*, having neglected to comply with the Act 3 & 4 Vict. c. 85, so far as regards the construction of their chimneys, were summoned to appear at the Borough Court. The penalty for the offence is not less than 10*l.* nor more than 50*l.* It appeared that the defendants had laboured under the impression that their plan having been passed by the Building and Improvement Committee of the Town-council, they were, in common parlance, "all right." The informant on whose evidence conviction was sought, however, after stating that the angles of the chimneys were less than 120 degrees, was asked how many degrees there were in a circle, and replied that he had never studied pneumatics, and was therefore not prepared to answer the question. His evidence was accordingly regarded as nil, and the cases dismissed; but the informant intimated that he would immediately lay fresh informations, and the magistrates declared that on sufficient evidence they were determined to enforce the law. In one of the cases, the openings or doors, not less than 6 inches square, required by the Act in such circumstances, were inserted before the houses were occupied, and this the magistrates regarded as sufficient.

Edinburgh.—The new free church at the Nether Bow is now assuming architectural form. The rear part is completed to the desired elevation, while the front to the main street is making rapid progress. It stands immediately to the east of and supports John Knox's house, and will likely bear the name of the great reformer.——A tenement of houses for the working classes has just been roofed in at the Pleasance, to the south of Arthur-street. They are said to contain all the conveniences desiderated in these dwellings, according to the plans and execution of Mr. Beattie.——Notwithstanding that the Police Act recently obtained contains ample powers for carrying

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